



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 3/6, 2010

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FOUR TENNESSEE TITLE I SCHOOLS ACHIEVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Nashville, TN – Four Tennessee schools have been recognized as 2010 Title I Distinguished Schools, representing a track record of superior progress in Title I programs. Sponsored by the National Title I Association, awards are offered on a national and state level to highly successful schools serving a large population of economically disadvantaged students that succeed at accomplishing exceptional student achievement or closing the achievement gap.

“These schools represent the fundamental priorities of quality education and emphasize the potential for all students to succeed if given the support they need,” Education Commissioner Bruce Opie said. “The teachers, principals and support staff in these schools have demonstrated exceptional commitment and the lives of hundreds of students are better for it.”

Title I schools eligible for the Distinguished Schools award must have 35 percent poverty or greater, have met performance standards for consecutive years, use research-based teaching and professional development successfully and engage partnerships with parents and the community. Distinguished schools are recognized in two categories: 1) those that have exhibited exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years, and 2) schools that have made the most progress in significantly closing the achievement gap between student groups.

NATIONAL WINNERS	STATE WINNERS
Hollis F. Price Middle College High School <i>Exceptional Student Performance</i> Memphis City Schools Daphne Beasley, Principal	North Greene High School <i>Exceptional Student Performance</i> Greene County Schools David McLain, Principal
South Greene High School <i>Closing the Achievement Gap</i> Greene County Schools Cindy Bowman, Principal	A.H. Roberts Elementary <i>Closing the Achievement Gap</i> Overton County Schools Bridgett Carwile, Principal

“Too often poverty is perceived as a challenge that puts the foundations needed for learning at risk,” said Dr. Debra E. Owens, Chief LEA Support and Improvement Officer. “These schools have gone above and beyond to ensure their students have the tools to excel in school and prove that high-priority schools can exceed high standards.”

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As national winners, teams from Hollis F. Price Middle College and South Greene High School are invited as guests at the National Title I Conference from January 31 – February 3, 2011. Winning schools are honored for their positive educational achievements and presented with a monetary award.

The National Title I Association aims to enable disadvantaged children and youth to meet or exceed high academic state standards, builds the capacity of state and local educators for leadership, support and advocacy in the design and effective implementation of programs under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The National Distinguished Schools program has honored schools across the country for their innovation in helping Title I populations achieve this goal since 1996.

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